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Statement submitted by New Progressive Alliance, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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Statement

The most important factor in sustainable development goals is sustainable environmental progress in the face of climate change which has already started. Given the predictions of the vast majority of scientists on future generations this is the most important issue we should be addressing right now. It will be greatly affect all eight of the Millennium Developmental Goals.

A major problem in preventing climate change is governments and the World Bank subsidizes and supports fossil fuels more than renewable energy. A remedy would be if the United Nations listed for every country the ratio of subsidies for fossil fuel to subsidies for renewable energy. A reasonable initial goal would be to have subsidies for renewable energy be equal to or greater than subsidies for fossil fuel.

The cost of using fossil fuels is rising. It consistently costs the United States well over ten billion dollars a year for fossil fuel subsidies. It recently rose from 12.7 billion in 2009 to 18.5 billion in 2013. These subsidies include tax breaks, incentives for production on federal lands (such as royalty fees that haven't been adjusted in 25 years) and tax deductions for clean-up costs. If state subsidies for oil, gas and coal production are also included, the total value climbs to $21.6 billion for 2013. It is estimated that the world will spend an extra $8 trillion over the next 25 years to prolong the use of non-renewable resources, a cost that would be eliminated by eventually transitioning instead to 100% renewable energy. There are also externalities — such as healthcare costs due to pollution, government guaranteed loans, environmental destruction through mountaintop removal for coal, tar sands oil drilling, fracking for natural gas, and wars for oil and uranium. Also consistently ignored is the price for adjusting to the effects of global climate change — even if possible — is far greater than the cost of stopping global warming at this stage. Unlike the climbing costs of fossil fuels, the cost of renewable energy is declining and has been for decades.

One should be able to compare with each country the total subsidies for fossil fuels with the total subsidies for renewable energy. Of course, the United Nations and the World Bank should never again subsidize fossil fuels for developing nations.

Let renewable energy play on a level playing field with fossil fuels and it will expand even faster and lessen the degree of climate change. Publishing where countries are really spending their money would allow groups such as the New Progressive Alliance to push them in the right direction.

The above is documented under "Costs" in the article *The Environment* available at http://www.newprogs.org/the_environment_under_the_democratic_republican_uniparty.